

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 125902

EXDIS

FOL TEL SENT SECSTATE FROM PHNOM PENH JUNE 26 TH:

QUOTE: PHNOM PENH 6363

EXDIS

DEPT PASS IF DESIRED TO MOSCOW AND PARIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CB, US, UR, FR

SUBJ: LETTER FOR PRESIDENT NIXON FROM MARSHAL LON NOL OR CEASE-
FIRE NEGOTIATIONS

1. WE RECEIVED LATE JUNE 25 THE FOLLOWING LETTER FOR
PRESIDENT NIXON, SIGNED BY MARSHAL LON NOL AND ENDORSED
BY THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL
(CHENG HENG, SIRIK MATAK, IN TAM).

2. BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION. PHNOM PENH, JUNE 24,
1973. MR. PRESIDENT. IT APPEARS THAT THERE IS A
PERSISTENT MISUNDERSTANDING IN THE UNITED STATES THAT
THE KHMER REPUBLIC IS DISINTERESTED IN TALKS LEADING TO
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A CEASE- FIRE.

3. THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT WE ARE VICTIMS OF AGGRESSION BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WHO HAVE PROFITED FROM IT BY ARMING THE KHMER ROUGE JUST AS THEY DID BEFORE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE OF 1954.

4. WE ASK ONLY THAT THE AGGRESSORS LEAVE THIS COUNTRY IN FULFILLMENT OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS.

5. IF THAT IS ACCOMPLISHED (FAIT ET GARANTI), WE ARE AGREEABLE ON THE BASIS OF THE GENEVA AGREEMENT OF 1954 TO SEEK RECONCILIATION AND A CEASE- FIRE WITH THE KHMER ROUGE, DIRECTLY OR THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF A FRIENDLY POWER SUCH AS, FOR EXAMPLE, YOUR COUNTRY , RUSSIA, OR FRANCE.

6. WE THEREFORE REQUEST YOUR SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO HELP US REALIZE THESE OBJECTIVES.

7. THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE. I ASSURE YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, OF MY AFFECTIONATE AND RESPECTFUL ESTEEM. SIGNED LON NOL, PRESIDENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC (SIGNATURES OF OTHER THREE AFFIXED TO THE SIDE). END TRANSLATION.

8. COMMENT. SINCE THIS MESSAGE STRUCK ME AS MORE THAN ORDINARILY CRYPTIC, EVEN FOR LON NOL, I SOUGHT TO OBTAIN AN ELUCIDATION OF IT FROM FOREIGN MINISTER LONG BORET, WHOM I SAW ON OTHER BUSINESS EARLY TODAY. JUST BACK FROM THAILAND, HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE LETTER BUT AGREED WITH ME THAT IT REQUIRED SOME CLARIFICATION WHICH HE UNDERTOOK TO OBTAIN. ALTHOUGH HE SUGGESTED THAT I DEFER TRANSMITTING THE LETTER, I THINK IT BETTER THAT YOU HAVE IT AS DRAFTED WITH THE CAVEAT THAT IT MAY SUBSEQUENTLY BE WITHDRAWN OR MODIFIED. I WILL WITHOLD COMMENT FOR THE TIME BEING. SWANK
UNQUOTE ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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